

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CEQ-01 EPAE-00 HEW-06

HUD-02 NASA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-10 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05

NSAE-00 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-15

INT-05 SMI-01 OIC-02 ARA-14 EA-12 NEA-11 AGRE-00

/196 W

-----091707 240531Z /16

R 231400Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7628

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1405

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS NAIROBI 7815

DEPARTMENT PASS CEQ, COMMERCE, EPA, HEW, HUD, INTERIOR

NASA, NOAA

LONDON FOR IMCO

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

PARIS FOR UNESCO

ROME FOR FODAG

VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OCON, UNEP

SUBJ: SIXTH SESSION - UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL - PROGRAM COMMITTEE

SUMMARY

REF NAIROBI 7358

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1. SUMMARY - PROGRAM COMMITTEE CONCLUDED WORK MAY 23  
WITH APPROVAL THIRTEEN DECISIONS INDICATING DESIRED  
EMPHASIS FOR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES DURING REMAINDER CURRENT  
BIENNIUM. PLENARY AGREED TO HOLD SEVENTH SESSION OF  
GOVERNING COUNCIL APRIL 18 - MAY 4, 1979. END SUMMARY

2. PROGRAM COMMITTEE CONCLUDED ITS WORK MAY 23, WITH

APPROVAL OF THIRTEEN DECISIONS COVERING, INTER-ALIA, ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, THE INTERNATIONAL REFERRAL SYSTEM (IRS), IMBALANCES IN FUNDING OF REGIONAL PROGRAMS FOR ASIA, ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION SECRETARIAT, INTERNATIONAL REGISTER OF POTENTIALLY TOXIC CHEMICALS (IRPTC) AND EXPORT OF CHEMICALS NOT APPROVED FOR DOMESTIC USE, IMPROVEMENT OF WORKING ENVIRONMENT, TROPICAL FOREST REGIONAL INFORMATION CENTRE FOR AFRICA, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, REGIONAL SEAS PROGRAM, COOPERATIVE RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS, AND SOIL CONSERVATION. U.S. INTERVENTIONS ON EARTHWATCH, TOXIC CHEMICALS, TROPICAL DEFORESTATION, SOIL CONSERVATION, INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT AND FREE EXCHANGE OF DATA IN REGIONAL SEAS PROGRAM RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FROM OTHER DELS DURING PROGRAM COMMITTEE SESSIONS.

3. TWO PRINCIPAL ISSUES WERE QUESTION OF LIMITING UNEP'S OPEN ENDED COMMITMENTS TO IMPLEMENTATION OF CONVENTIONS (E.G. ENDANGERED SPECIES AND ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN 1979 AS PRELUDE TO DETAILED DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT FOR NEXT BIENNIUM. VARIOUS COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY CANADA AND UK, CONCERNED THAT FIXED FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO SUPPORT EXISTING AND POSSIBLE FUTURE CONVENTIONS WOULD SEVERELY LIMIT ABILITY OF FUND TO SERVE AS CATALYST FOR NEW ACTIVITIES. ISSUE RESOLVED BY MAKING DISTINCTION BETWEEN ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAMMATIC UNCLASSIFIED

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ASPECTS OF CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION. IN BOTH ENDANGERED SPECIES AND MED CONVENTIONS, PARTIES ARE TO ASSUME FULL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS BY END OF 1983. AT SAME TIME, PARTIES INVITED TO CONTINUE TO SUBMIT PROGRAM PROPOSALS FOR SUPPORT BY UNEP FUND. AS RESULT ABOVE, ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION MAY HAVE TO BE AMENDED TO RELIEVE UNEP OF FUNDING SECRETARIAT RESPONSIBILITIES. COMPROMISE DECISION ON FUNDING FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION SECRETARIAT RAISED UNEP CONTRIBUTION TO \$700,000 FOR 1978-79 BIENNIUM. UNEP ALSO TO PAY COST OF NEXT MEETING OF PARTIES BUT NO SUBSEQUENT ONES.

4. GROUP OF 77 SUBMITTED LENGTHY RESOLUTION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, STRESSING NEED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND CALLING FOR REVERSAL OF DECLINING BUDGET LINE FOR THIS ITEM, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF INTRODUCING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO PREPARATIONS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL \$1.1 MILLION FOR 1979 SCALED DOWN THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS TO \$450,000 TO BE DERIVED FROM SLIGHT PROPORTIONATE REDUCTIONS IN THE LARGER OF CERTAIN

PROGRAM ACTIVITY BUDGET LINES. SAME PROCEDURE USED TO PROVIDE SMALL INCREASE FOR '79 OCEANS BUDGET. THESE REALLOCATIONS REFLECTED IN RECOMMENDATIONS TO FINANCE COMMITTEE.

5. THOUGH ALL DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH GENERAL GOALS OF IRPTC, MANY DELEGATES EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER UNFOCUSSED NATURE OF PROPOSED WORK PLAN. U.S. AND CANADA, IN PARTICULAR, EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF IRPTC COMPLETING LINKAGES WITH EXISTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS ON CHEMICALS RATHER THAN EMBARKING ON CENTRALIZED COMPUTER DATA FILES. SEVERAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES EXPRESSED ABOUT THE EXPORT OF CHEMICALS WHICH ARE BANNED IN PRODUCER COUNTRIES. U.S. DEL ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN AND NOTED MEASURES BEING CONSIDERED IN U.S.  
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CONGRESS TO REGULATE EXPORT OF PESTICIDES NOT REGISTERED FOR USE IN THE U.S.

6. COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS (CBA) - UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOLBA CHAIRED INFORMAL WORKING SESSION TO REVIEW DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR UNEP ACTIVITIES IN COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS. PROPOSAL CALLS FOR INTERESTED COUNTRIES TO PREPARE CASE STUDIES ON COST/BENEFIT AND OTHER ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. MOST DELEGATE ENDORSED THIS CONCEPT, BUT MANY EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN APPLYING SUCH ANALYSIS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. DELEGATES AGREED TO QUERY THEIR GOVERNMENTS ON (A) SHARING OF CASE STUDIES AND (B) CONVENING AN EXPERTS COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS CBA IN THE FALL OF 1978.

7. MAY 23 PLENARY AGREED TO HOLD SEVENTH SESSION APRIL 18 - MAY 4, 1979 WITH INTERSESSIONAL INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO BE HELD IN NAIROBI IN JANUARY 1979.  
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## Message Attributes

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Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
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